

The Washington Times

Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (Including Sundays)

By The Washington Times Company, THE MURPHY BUILDING, Penna. Ave.

FRANK A. MUNSEY, President.
R. H. TITHERINGTON, Secretary.
C. H. POPE, Treasurer.

One Year (Including Sundays), \$3.50.
Six Months, \$2.25. Three Months, \$1.00.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1917.

SWITZERLAND EXPLAINS, TOO

Switzerland is taking no chances that its indorsement of President Wilson's peace suggestion shall be misunderstood. The suspicion has gained circulation that Switzerland was under some measure of duress from Germany; that there was threat, express or implied, of invasion; and that military dispositions by both Italy and Germany indicated a fear that the central nations were preparing for a possible incursion through Swiss territory, which Italy was moving to resist if need might be.

Just to make its position in this world perfectly plain; to remove any suspicion that Switzerland might have uncertainties as to its course in such an event, the President of the little republic sends to President Wilson a fraternal New Year greeting: From the President of the oldest to the President of the greatest democracy. If it was addressed to Mr. Wilson, it was aimed elsewhere, plainly enough. The Swiss people, this greeting finds occasion to note, "will never allow a foreign army to invade their soil." That means exactly all it says. Julius Caesar met one of his most lurid adventures with the Helveti, who two thousand years ago were the Swiss, as the Swiss federation today is officially the Helvetian republic. Switzerland, we suspect, will not be invaded. A "triumphal march" over its Alps would be quite a different affair from a steam-rolling of Roumania or an assassination of Belgium while it slept.

MORE CHILD PROTECTION

Desirable and beneficial as are child labor and compulsory education laws, they have been operative in many States long enough to bring a realization that they are but a beginning, a sort of negative protection, to the development of future citizens.

One point in which supplementary effort is needed is the transition stage between the period which a child may not work and must go to school and the time when he suddenly emerges from the scope of either law, and finds himself a free agent. Overnight the youth changes, in the eyes of the law, from a child who must be kept in school and kept from work, to one who may work, go to school, or what is far worse, loaf, if he pleases.

Students have spent much time on this condition. It is doubtful whether the remedy is legislative. One of the best suggestions made recently is that, in States where these laws are in operation, the schools shall give each child who is to leave school upon reaching the limit of compulsory attendance, preliminary training in some occupation.

Such a benefit should not only be extended to those who leave school at an early age, of course, and it is a commentary on schools if laws have to be made to compel them to train children for a definite vocation. But the suggestion points a way to alleviating a situation that many States are facing, and may lead to a bigger and broader constructive effort, to a positive development of child life, rather than a negative sort of protection for it.

A SQUARE DEAL DEMANDED

The navy needs and is entitled to assurance that its requirements of fuel oil will be amply provided for. They are amply cared for, however, without the necessity that the Government shall inflict a rank injustice on men who have in perfectly good faith undertaken to develop oil fields whose product is now pressingly needed for commercial use.

There can be no two views on the essential merits of the claims which are being pressed by certain California oil producers, for patents to lands whose development they have undertaken and in which they have invested heavily. They did not attempt to grab something to which they had not the right. Rather, the Government's whole proceeding has been more in the nature of an effort to grab something away from them after they were entitled to it.

It is a dangerous business to assume that such a slogan as that raised in behalf of navy supplies shall be permitted to interfere with the everyday needs of the country. There are other uses for petroleum than the navy's. Prices of petroleum are just now rising very fast in the general market. The country's requirements are growing, with the increased use of internal combustion engines, faster than it can be hoped the production of oil will grow. There is such a thing as getting proportions wrong; and in reserving a greater stock of oil for naval use

than the navy is going to need, while denying to the general consuming public the right to get its oil supplies at as reasonable prices as possible, there is danger of making just this mistake.

TURKEY CLEARING THE BOARDS

Only students of the near Eastern situation will grasp the full significance of the announcement that Turkey has served formal notice of abrogating the treaties of 1865 and 1878, dealing with the Balkans. Was it Lord Salisbury who said there were only three men in Europe who understood the Balkan situation? Perhaps Bismarck; anyhow, it was a famous witticism in its day: one of the three was dead, one wouldn't tell what he knew, and the third—the cynical commentator—admitted that he had forgotten.

The point is that the whole political status in the Balkans, the distribution of territory, the interrelationships of administration, the precise phases of suzerainty by Turkey in some areas, by Austria in others, has grown up through a long complication of treaties. There is almost nothing left of human rights, of national authority, of fundamental, natural relationships, in the whole Balkan area, save that which is pledged by treaty, guaranteed by some group of powers, conditioned on a variety of circumstances. Whether it be the navigation of the lower Danube, the use of the Dardanelles, the tribute that some vilayet shall pay to some overlord, or the independent right of either little state to make treaty engagements, there is always a complication with some pact which drags in the ancient and discordant concert of Europe.

So Turkey, anticipating that there must come a revision of the whole scheme of Balkan things, announces purpose to wipe the slate clean of all these old engagements. Incidentally it is stated that Turkey "has definitely abandoned its somewhat subordinate position under the collective guardianship of the great powers." That means that Turkey, assuming to be an equal partner of the alliance of the central empires, expects to be raised to the status of full national and international autonomy. No more confession of inferiority; no more admission of a weakness which justifies it in accepting Christian terms imposed by the Christian powers for the protection of their colonialist and unfortunate enough to live in Turkey.

Austria and Germany are to follow with like repudiation of these old engagements, so that nothing may stand in the way of the entire reorganization of the Balkans. Which means that, if the central powers dictate peace terms, the groundwork will be prepared for wiping out every national line in the peninsula, for redistributing the peoples without regard to national or ethnic or historic conditions, for parceling out territory among the conquerors to please themselves.

Here the world gets a view of the prospect for a rehabilitation of Mohammedan power in Europe. Charles Martel of Tours, and John Sobieski of Warsaw and Vienna might well turn in their graves; betrayed by the twentieth century. Mohammedan power, backed by the legions of a dominant Prussian militarism, aiming, of course, at the restoration of the Prophet's authority in all the lands about the Mediterranean from which it has been more or less shaken off in recent generations.

THE WAR'S MILITARY CLIMAX

Accounts which come from France, Germany, and Britain agree in the one detail: that all the countries are preparing for operations in 1917 on the most colossal scale the war has yet known. Scraps of information which have reached this country through travelers are in some ways more suggestive than the large generalizations which are permitted to be forwarded as news. Thus, the other day a man was in Washington who has seen, in a certain section of remote interior England, a single explosives-making plant, now just getting well into operation. He declared that this British Hopewell was a succession of plants twenty-one miles long. Though it was not by any means in complete operation, 70,000 operatives were employed in it.

This one plant, built absolutely from foundations to the last brick since the war started, will be capable of turning out, and in the near future will turn out, more high explosives, it is declared, than the whole world's capacity for that production represented before the war started.

From Germany come reports of like sort. France has perfected perhaps the most complete industrial and social mobilization of any nation, for the purpose of putting every national resource back of the supreme war effort. It is not hard to understand how, in the crisis where the last ounce may swing the balance to victory, France is able to effect an even more complete consecration of her all than Germany. For France has felt the heel of the conqueror on her soil. Germany is the perfection of preconceived organization; but that organization

has not had inspiration breathed into it, as has the French nation. Germany and England are the two countries which have not known the actual sensation of invasion; they have not heard the tread of hostile hordes, have not seen homes in flames, have not felt the shock of battle. It is impossible that either of them can feel everything that France has felt.

Probably when the historians, in the light of completed knowledge, shall write of this war, they will describe the years 1914, '15, and '16 as years of preliminary. They will see that neither social, industrial, nor military organization and methods had attained perfection until 1917. Undoubtedly, with the calling up of the new elements in men, machinery, munitions, the coming year will have crowded into its span a total of great operations equal to all that have gone before. If that total does not prove more decisive than the efforts of earlier years, then indeed will the period of slow, progressive attrition have been reached. For it is hardly believable that the immense power that will be put forth in 1917 can be duplicated in any succeeding season. The numbers and resources of the nations will not stand it.

In military methods, it may be imagined, there will be some decided changes. Everything still points the belief that the allies will make their bid for victory on the western front. They are organizing for the supreme effort there. Strategy and tactics have been developing; commanders have been feeling their way toward new methods; troops have been learning the lessons they are now to apply. The war is going to be more than ever a contest of engineering and factories and mechanism. It begins to be sensed that the man-power problem will at the last be less important than that of economic power; of capacity to bring up and use and wear out and replace the vast enginery of this titan conflict.

THE LUCKY CONDUCTOR

Conductors on the Washington Railway and Electric Company's lines may now sit down in the less busy zones. Thus, the conductors receive a privilege long ago accorded to motormen.

The street car company deserves commendation for this show of consideration for its employees. Its action is in line with that of public utility and other corporations which are considering more and more the comfort for their workers.

Some time, this side of the millennium perhaps, will come the joyous day when each passenger may be guaranteed a seat. Sometimes he would be glad, even for that theoretical seven square feet of standing room the Public Utilities Commission allotted him, or even for a strap. When the edict goes forth that the passenger, too, may sit down, even if it be only in restricted zones, there will be more rejoicing.

WOMEN AND GOOD ROADS

During the next five years the United States will expend \$85,000,000 in the construction of good roads in the States and National Parks. The \$75,000,000 allotted to the States will not be expended, however, unless the States expend a like amount out of their own resources. To make the work effective there must be a co-operation between the States and the United States, between the counties, townships, and districts and the States, and between the men and women. It is the combination between the men and women in good roads work that would be of the most value to those who dwell in the rural districts, and particularly to the women whose lots are cast in regions remote from the centers of population. The isolation of such women is one of the most pathetic features of rural life. What they have suffered because of their separation from the outside world no tongue could tell—the human touch, the attrition of mind with mind, the lack of community centers, and of good schools for their children, the discomforts of ill-built houses without sanitary arrangements, the kerosene lamp to emphasize the darkness of the nighttime, when the unforgiving solitudes of the country bear down upon the souls of men, the impassable distances to church throughout the winter season.

This is the human side of the good roads problem, and it is equally important as the commercial side, and it is the side the women themselves must help to work out. One week of work in this interest would be worth more than all the suffrage parades that could be organized in a year by all the progressive women of the race.

Bulgaria's announcement that her task is done, leaves nothing to add save the somewhat essential guarantee that it will not have to be done over.

"Allies Leave Loophole for Naming Terms," says a headline. Also an increasing number to shoot an increasing number of cannons through.

The Kaiser's New Year greeting to his armies and navy reads, also, like a supplement to the Teutonic peace proposal. If the central empires are everywhere victorious, is there any great certainty what sort of peace they have in mind to make?

Don Marquis' Column

Judging by the way information trickles out of Washington to Wall Street, what the present Administration needs is a good plumber.

The Records.
The last and knell is sounding, the old year lies dead, And Father Time stands counting the golden moments fled. Before him lie the records of Earth and Life and Man, The minutes of creation kept since the world began.

The strife of warring nations, the tales of lust and greed, The blood that cries for vengeance, the clash of creed with creed; Broad writ upon the parchment in cloths of red appear The story of the seasons, the passing of the years.

Time's palsied hand is shaking above a virgin page Of pure unspiced whiteness meet for the coming age. Whereon his style shall enter the sowing of the seeds, The reaping of the harvest, the sum of human deeds.

Amid the somber shadows a steadfast, shining star appears, Smiles in resplendent glory serenely from afar: It is Hope's silver token that hails the new-born year, A better day is dawning; have faith, and do not fear.

—GEORGE T. PARDY.

Villa Levies Tax on Torreon.
Headline.

Tax dodgers in Mexico must be well supplied with artillery in order to get away with it.

"The Toddle" is the latest dance, we learn. In common with many others of the large gay growing clan of Palace dances, it is waiting until The Waddle comes in.

Big families for the Rich, small families for the Poor, a professor of genetics advocates. People are always thinking of something for the Rich to do that will make them poorer, and the Rich are always ungrateful and never do it. This attitude on the part of the Rich is one thing that makes so many of the Poor determine never to become Rich.

Who They Are.
Sir—I happen to be that distinctive individual who takes hours in preparing a muse-like inspiration, and after carefully addressing and storing it away in one of my innermost pockets, I attentively scan the contents of the "Sun Dial" until I recollect that I had never even mailed my letter.

Germany, it is said, now did not expect anything to come from the peace proposals. For once, at least, German thought was in accord with that of most other nations.

A Militarist is often a person who wishes to be entirely surrounded by a great army, so that no fight can reach to him.

We Rise To Rhyme.
Say, cap, I note your rhyming error. The words you mention are a terror. But why not couple Rembrandt eye With that dear lady, Zim, Bronie? You'll find the proper rhyme for Bernhardt: (Or, Anglicized, how will you yearn, heart, At memories of Sallie Bernhardt?) So much for you. . . . And as for Freckles, Myself and other rhyming Haeclets, The innovators, show the isthmus That forms the only rhyme to Christ-

OUR HISTORICAL FACTS ARE THE OUTGROWTH OF OUR EMOTIONS.
Sir: Let's get our history on straight. Doubtless your leap year anecdote of the late Solomon is authentic, and valuable, but why date it a thousand years before he began his career as a collector of wives? Of course, he knew he kept up his literary activities for many centuries after his death—his well known song having been written, probably, about 600 years after his funeral—but why stretch him backward, too? Anyhow, Huck Finn's nigger Jim was right about Solomon. He's one of the most colossal frauds in history; a sort of premature Wilson. A very successful financier, unrivaled as a collector in his line, but otherwise much overrated. Some day I'm going to take him up in a serious way. Meanwhile, I object to any further expansion of his tradition.

A Communication From Archy.
boss you tughta been here last night we had a ball on top of your deak in honor of your getting it cleaned for 1917 three cockroaches a katydid two spiders and a peruvian flea that came in with the decaed gentleman who tried to sell you his autobiography in poetical form the other day and compromised by borrowing a dime finally a thousand legs came long and made a hit by dancing a dozen different dances all at once each pair of legs keeping step to a different tune what we need here worst of all is two or three crickets for an orchestra I am inventing a new step called that cockroach glide archy

"After reading your article on vers libre the other day," writes R. P. "I gather that you could not advise a young poet to go in for that sort of thing."

Young man, you get us! Rather than write vers libre it were better that a millstone were tied around your neck and you were dropped into the Atlantic Monthly.

NEW BILL CURTAILS CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Measure Just Completed Limits Each Party to \$1,500,000.

MANY DRASTIC FEATURES

Leaders of Both Sides Agree to Pass the Proposed Act.

Campaign contributions to a national political committee would be limited to 1 1/2 cents per capita of the total population of the United States in the revised corrupt practices bill completed by a Senate elections subcommittee, to be referred to the full committee today and placed before the Senate tomorrow.

Senators Reed, Walsh and Kenyon drafted the bill in collaboration with Senator Owen, author of the original measure debated in the Senate before the holidays. Senator Owen said leaders of both parties had agreed to expedite passage of a bill along the lines proposed.

The per capita basis would limit total contributions to any national committee in a Presidential campaign to approximately \$1,500,000. No individual would be permitted to contribute more than \$5,000 and contributions by corporations to any campaign fund would be prohibited.

Election Eve Contributions Barred.
Another important provision would prohibit contributions to a national committee within ten days of a general election and require a complete report of contributions and disbursements to be filed with the clerk of the House of Representatives ten days before the election.

Election betting and advertising for political advertising in excess of normal commercial advertising rates or refusing non-bellows political advertisements offered at such rates when it opens its columns to other political advertising would be deemed the use of the mails for thirty days.

Gratuities Articles Signed.
Further, the measure provides that no publication shall publish gratuitously any political matter during a campaign except that written by its own employees unless the matter is signed by the real name of the author, and that no political advertising matter intended to influence an election shall be published unless marked as "paid advertising matter," with the name of the candidate or committee presenting it attached.

Financial contributions to State and county political committees also would be limited on a per capita population basis. State committees would be restricted to 1/2 cent per capita up to the first 500,000 inhabitants, 3 cents up to the second 500,000 and 2 cents per capita over the first million. County committees would be limited to 3 cents per capita for the first 50,000, 2 cents per capita for the next 50,000 to 100,000, and 1 cent above 100,000.

Limit of Expenditures.
Candidates for United States Senator and Representative at large would be limited to campaign expenditures of \$5,000 each in States of less than 1,000,000 population, and not to exceed two mills additional for each inhabitant in excess of 1,000,000. District candidates for the House of Representatives would be limited to an expenditure of \$2,500 in all cases. Senators and Congressmen would not be required to account for personal expenses, which would include traveling, hotel, postage, stationery, telegraph and telephone charges.

"DIVINE" SARAH MYSTIFIED

Sent Gifts, But Giver Didn't Mean It That Way.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Who was the promoter of the movement to pay tribute to Mme. Bernhardt by presenting her with a bronze statuette of herself as the Queen in "Ruy Blas"? John Drew, Mrs. Samuel Kitson, Mme. Bernhardt's manager, and, incidentally, Mme. Bernhardt herself, would like to know.

It was with much ceremony that at a special matinee in the Empire Theatre on December 8 Mr. Drew, representing the actors of America, made the presentation speech. On the stage he had a bronze statuette of Mme. Bernhardt which had been modeled in Paris, in 1879, by Samuel Kitson, an American sculptor. Mme. Bernhardt at that time had won high praise in Victor Hugo's play, and the sculptor, enthusiastic over the actress' genius, had worked the statuette in clay and had it reproduced in plaster of Paris.

Mr. Drew explained at the matinee that Mrs. Appa M. Kitson, widow of the sculptor, had presented it to the actress before the war. Mrs. Bernhardt as the genius of her profession, were delighted to give it to her.

VAST POSSIBILITIES IN NEW OIL REGION

Measure Just Completed Limits Each Party to \$1,500,000.

MANY DRASTIC FEATURES

Leaders of Both Sides Agree to Pass the Proposed Act.

Campaign contributions to a national political committee would be limited to 1 1/2 cents per capita of the total population of the United States in the revised corrupt practices bill completed by a Senate elections subcommittee, to be referred to the full committee today and placed before the Senate tomorrow.

Senators Reed, Walsh and Kenyon drafted the bill in collaboration with Senator Owen, author of the original measure debated in the Senate before the holidays. Senator Owen said leaders of both parties had agreed to expedite passage of a bill along the lines proposed.

The per capita basis would limit total contributions to any national committee in a Presidential campaign to approximately \$1,500,000. No individual would be permitted to contribute more than \$5,000 and contributions by corporations to any campaign fund would be prohibited.

Election Eve Contributions Barred.
Another important provision would prohibit contributions to a national committee within ten days of a general election and require a complete report of contributions and disbursements to be filed with the clerk of the House of Representatives ten days before the election.

Election betting and advertising for political advertising in excess of normal commercial advertising rates or refusing non-bellows political advertisements offered at such rates when it opens its columns to other political advertising would be deemed the use of the mails for thirty days.

Gratuities Articles Signed.
Further, the measure provides that no publication shall publish gratuitously any political matter during a campaign except that written by its own employees unless the matter is signed by the real name of the author, and that no political advertising matter intended to influence an election shall be published unless marked as "paid advertising matter," with the name of the candidate or committee presenting it attached.

Financial contributions to State and county political committees also would be limited on a per capita population basis. State committees would be restricted to 1/2 cent per capita up to the first 500,000 inhabitants, 3 cents up to the second 500,000 and 2 cents per capita over the first million. County committees would be limited to 3 cents per capita for the first 50,000, 2 cents per capita for the next 50,000 to 100,000, and 1 cent above 100,000.

Limit of Expenditures.
Candidates for United States Senator and Representative at large would be limited to campaign expenditures of \$5,000 each in States of less than 1,000,000 population, and not to exceed two mills additional for each inhabitant in excess of 1,000,000. District candidates for the House of Representatives would be limited to an expenditure of \$2,500 in all cases. Senators and Congressmen would not be required to account for personal expenses, which would include traveling, hotel, postage, stationery, telegraph and telephone charges.

"DIVINE" SARAH MYSTIFIED

Sent Gifts, But Giver Didn't Mean It That Way.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Who was the promoter of the movement to pay tribute to Mme. Bernhardt by presenting her with a bronze statuette of herself as the Queen in "Ruy Blas"? John Drew, Mrs. Samuel Kitson, Mme. Bernhardt's manager, and, incidentally, Mme. Bernhardt herself, would like to know.

It was with much ceremony that at a special matinee in the Empire Theatre on December 8 Mr. Drew, representing the actors of America, made the presentation speech. On the stage he had a bronze statuette of Mme. Bernhardt which had been modeled in Paris, in 1879, by Samuel Kitson, an American sculptor. Mme. Bernhardt at that time had won high praise in Victor Hugo's play, and the sculptor, enthusiastic over the actress' genius, had worked the statuette in clay and had it reproduced in plaster of Paris.

Mr. Drew explained at the matinee that Mrs. Appa M. Kitson, widow of the sculptor, had presented it to the actress before the war. Mrs. Bernhardt as the genius of her profession, were delighted to give it to her.

Here and There In the News

Now, if the author of "Frenzied Finance" would only spring a "leak" as to his own system all the tickers in the country would be kept busy for at least a week of the wildest speculation ever known. Speaking was not a tickler, it is said that active little instrument was the invention of a minister, and a very clever invention it was, certainly.

Let's Be Happy.

"Be Like the Robin, the Bird That Sings in the Rain!" Such was one of the very remarkable admonitions starting out in great black letters from one of the church bulletin boards in this town; and it was only one of many queer things that have been posted in the same way. But if comparisons with the bird family must be had, why not "Hark, Hark! the lark at heaven's gate sings," the while the sun is rising? Or to put it for brevity in the dialect of the little Senegambian when called upon to recite his favorite ode at a school celebration: "Hak, Hak! de Lak."

Dry New Year in Virginia.

In spite of the large shipments of spirituous refreshments into the Old Dominion for the holidays, complaint is made that many Virginians spent a very dry New Year for the first time since Pocahontas saved John Smith from the Indians. One of the oldest of the Virginians said some time ago, when Taylor Bilson cast the deciding vote on the prohibition law in the Senate at Richmond, that "before the war" there was a single barroom or saloon in the State of Virginia, that wines and liquors were served only at places where entertainment was afforded to man and beast, that the barroom and saloon were the past spots of the liquor traffic in the later years, and that had these places been driven out there would have been no occasion for the prohibition measure that has been adopted.

Art and the Indian.

Edward Willard Demming has opened a studio in Washington. He is one of the great painters of Indian and animal subjects, and is now engaged in painting a series of Indian pictures for the National History Museum in New York. For a week or so there has been an exhibition of his Indian pictures at the Cosmos Club that has attracted the high appreciation of art students. Mr. Demming studied under Boulanger and Lefebre in Paris, and has won over 30 medals. He is particularly interested in the Indians, with whom he has lived for many years—in their history, their manners and customs, their domestic life, their religion, and especially in their treatment by the white men who have almost civilized them out of existence. "It can be said of the Indians," Mr. Demming remarked the other day, "that they have never broken a treaty with the white man, and that the white man has never kept a treaty with the Indians; so that there should not be much surprise on this side of the sea that treaties are not much more than mere scraps of paper."

Smoking Religion.

"The Indians are religious people," said Mr. Demming, "and until the missionaries went among them with a faith they could not understand and in a spirit which they were disposed naturally to resent, they lived in the hope of another life beyond the grave, and with a confidence in what they called 'The Great Mystery.' From their birth they were taught by their mothers to believe in this Great Mystery, and when the boys grew up they went off into the woods, each by himself, to commune with the spirit whose goodness and power they relied for guidance here and for happiness hereafter."

Two Kinds of Crooks.

"The domestic life of the Indians among whom I have lived has been of a very sincere and impressive sort. The Indians have been stripped of their property and in many cases been treated with barbarous cruelty, thanks to the crooks of their own race and the crooks placed over them by a benevolent government. The conditions have been improving in a way—Cato Sells, the present Indian Commissioner, is a very capable, broad and intelligent conception of the subject, and has in the case of the Blackfoot Indians extended very practical aid; but this is another story."

Washington Water.

"You do not know how much we have to be thankful for in Washington to this delicious water," said an eminent surgeon at the Press Club the other night, as he took the second glass of the purest aqua pura this side of the State in view. "The water here is nothing better or more invigorating, and there is no bill that I pay more cheerfully than the \$7 or \$8 I am taxed every year for exceeding the allotted supply. When I was in the service I was forced at times to pay as much as \$15 a barrel for water to drink and bathe in, and here we have this splendid stuff to drink almost without price. It is a real blessing in the far East where is cried in the streets as 'The Gift of God.'"

"There are lots of things in Washington—good water, good roads, good street lighting, good police protection, good fire regulations, and they will all be better by the end of the present year, of the noise that was made when the New Year came in was mere 'sound and fury, signifying nothing.'"

A Discrediting Experiment.

Several weeks ago, Commissioner Louis Browne made a capital speech to the men's club of the Church of the Covenant explaining the purposes of the present government of the District and reciting some of the rather disheartening experiences the Commissioners have had in carrying out the co-operation of the people of the community in their own affairs. For example, there are sixty-three civic organizations of one sort and another in Washington, every one of which is supposed to have some object of special value to the town in view. The Commissioners sent to 1,000 members of these organizations an earnest request for co-operation in the work of the District government, and in response to this request only three appearances were made before the Commissioners. There was not very much that to encourage a belief that the people of Washington really care very much about their own affairs or that they would take a very lively interest in their government if the right of franchise should be extended to them.

THE COMMENTATOR.